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April 25, 2001

Honorable Robert O'Farrell
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Monterey County
P. O. Box 1819
Salinas, CA 93902

REF: Grand Jury 2000 Final Report, January 2, 2001

Dear Judge O'Farrell:

On behalf of the Pacific Grove City Council, thank you for this opportunity to respond to findings and recommendations of the 2000 Grand Jury Report section on "Domestic Violence." Please accept the following as the response of the City of Pacific Grove to those findings and recommendations. I would also like to take this time to apologize for the tardiness of this response. In reviewing the full Grand Jury report, I inadvertently overlooked the responses to this section of the report while preparing our responses to other sections of the report.

The responses required by the Pacific Grove City Council on the issue of Domestic Violence deal with Findings 1-5 and 7, and Recommendations 1-5 and 7. Here is our response:

Finding 1: Domestic Violence materials are readily available to anyone entering the Police Department building, within five feet of the front door and clearly marked as such. There are a wide variety of materials available, including information on domestic violence, child abuse, spousal rape, and where suitable service alternatives can be found. The information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Finding 2: Our officers provide information to victims and contacts in the field, as well as the information that is provided at the station. In an attempt to reach out to potential and unreported victims prior to occurrences of Domestic Violence, we routinely participate in awareness efforts at the regional and local level. Our police personnel undergo annual training on Domestic Violence updates through the District Attorney's Office. This year our Department will go through additional training through the Training Sector of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. Our Chief of Police, Scott Miller, is a member of the Monterey County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Finding 3: Our materials are constantly replenished and available.

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Finding 4: All of our police officers have received ongoing advanced officer training on Domestic Violence. Several have received specialized training, including through the MCDVCC and through classes on photographing injuries of Domestic Violence victims through the Polaroid Company.

Finding 5: Agreed.

Finding 7: We believe this is true.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1: We constantly monitor our information to insure the most updated and cogent materials are available. We believe we are currently meeting Penal Code requirements adequately. Through active membership on the MCDVCC, our Chief of Police works toward standardization of compliance criteria to meet the requirements of the Penal Code throughout the County.

Recommendation 2: The Chief of Police, as an active member of the MCDVCC, advises that MCDVCC has established increased outreach to potential victims as a goal for year 2001. This goal specifically hopes to increase DVCC membership to a broader community base, including the business and faith communities and others. Additional resources allocated by the County to the MCDVCC would help them achieve this goal.

Recommendation 3: We believe our Police Department building is "user friendly" within our community. We often hold community meetings in the building, have 24 hour a day access, and have recently made modifications to the building entrance that includes ADA access. Placing boxes or containers outside the building seems unnecessary at the present time, but we will remain sensitive to this recommendation.

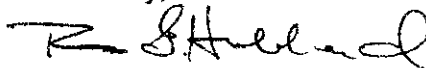
Recommendation 4: Our Police Department places a top priority on training all employees to respond adequately to all cases of suspected Domestic Violence. Specialists will be developed and trained to the degree feasible. Currently all domestic violence cases are funneled through one detective.

Recommendation 5: We agree with this philosophy, however, feel that having "law enforcement officers use their interactions with school-age children as opportunities to include advice and counsel on the subject of domestic violence" is a topic which is as of yet undeveloped for such inclusion in daily interactions with school children. We would be open to hearing from the Grand Jury as to how they foresee this goal being accomplished.

Recommendation 7: We have an adequate supply of brochures and will maintain same.

We hope this information is helpful in explaining our activities in the area of Domestic Violence information dissemination.

Sincerely,



Ross G. Hubbard
City Manager

cc: Mayor and City Council
Marilyn Maxner
Roy D. Lorenz